

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 09825 301136Z

20

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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R 300845Z SEP 76  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9331  
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 9825

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS IR  
SUBJ: FURTHER ON VISIT OF TOM JONES OF NORTHROP TO TEHRAN

REF TEHRAN 9263 (141137Z SEP 76)

1. RETIRED ARMY MG JABLONSKY, LOCAL NORTHROP VP, CAME IN SEPT 29 AT HIS REQUEST TO REPORT TO AMBASSADOR ON SEPT 12-13 VISIT TO TEHRAN OF TOM JONES. JABLONSKY BEGAN BY NOTING THAT HE KNEW THERE WERE SEVERAL VERSIONS OF THIS STORY FLOATING AROUND, AND HE WANTED AMBASSADOR TO HAVE NORTHROP VERSION.

2. JABLONSKY SAID KEY ASPECT OF JONES' VISIT WAS AUDIENCE WITH SHAH SEPT 12, OUT OF WHICH CAME INSTRUCTIONS TO GENERAL TOUFANIAN TO REQUEST AN LOA FOR F-18L AND TO DEVELOP OIL BARTER ARRANGEMENT FOR THIS. THIS CHAPTER OF STORY REALLY STARTED WITH AUG 30 NORTHROP SUBMISSION TO DOD OF F-18L MASTER PLAN. JONES HOPED TO HAVE THIS APPROVED BY SEPT 6 IN ORDER TO HAVE GREEN LIGHT FOR HIS PROPOSED TRIP TO TEHRAN. WHEN APPROVAL NOT RECEIVED BY SEPT 6, JONES CALLED DEPSECDEF ELLSWORTH FROM LONDON TO ASK IF HE SHOULD CANCEL TEHRAN TRIP. ELLSWORTH, JONES CONTENDS, SAID HE NEED NOT, AND SPECULATED THAT MASTER PLAN MIGHT BE APPROVED BY SEPT 30.

3. ACCORDING TO NORTHROP, TELEGRAM RECEIVED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON WAS ONLY SUPPOSED TO BE COURTESY COPY  
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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 09825 301136Z

OF MESSAGE WHOSE PRINCIPAL ADDRESSEE WAS DEPSECDEF

ELLSWORTH. HOWEVER, PRECISE INSTRUCTIONS NOT GIVEN TO SECRETARY, WHO SENT MESSAGE AS ORIGINAL TO BOTH ELLSWORTH AND ROBINSON.

4. JABLONSKY SAID JONES WAS UPSET WHILE IN TEHRAN BECAUSE HE FELT EMBASSY WAS BEING NEGATIVE WITH GOI AS TO HIS PROJECT. DCM MADE CLEAR TO JABLONSKY THAT EMBASSY HAD ONLY PROVIDED JONES WITH COPY OF LETTER FROM SEPSEC ROBINSON, AS INSTRUCTED STATE 225446, AND, TO ENSURE FULL CLARITY AND UNDERSTANDING OF USG POSITION IN THIS MATTER, HAD ALSO CONVEYED TO TOUFANIAN POINT THAT IF GOI INTERESTED IN F-18L USG WOULD HANDLE IT IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULAR PROCEDURES, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALL CONSIDERATIONS.

5. JABLONSKY SAID NORTHROP AIM, OF COURSE, IN PRESSING AHEAD ON F-18L WITH GOI RELATED TO TIME, INCLUDING U.S. CONGRESS NOTIFICATION ELEMENT. IN ORDER TO MEET 1982 DELIVERY TIME FRAME SPECIFIED IN TOUFANIAN TO SECDEF LETTER, NORTHROP, IDEALLY, SHOULD BE IN POSITION TO PROCEED WITH F-18L PROJECT BY JANUARY 1977.

6. AS TO OIL PART OF POSSIBLE DEAL, JABLONSKY SAID MOST RELEVANT OIL PEOPLE WERE NOT IN TEHRAN DURING JONES VISIT, AND THEREFORE LITTLE PROGRESS ON THAT ASPECT COULD BE MADE. HE SAID THERE WAS BRIEF DISCUSSION WITH EQBAL OF NIOC, WHICH WAS ARRANGED BY TOUFANIAN. ONLY CONCRETE PROGRESS ON OIL DURING JONES' VISIT WAS WRITTEN AGREEMENT BETWEEN NORTHROP AND CROWN PETROLEUM OF BALTIMORE OBLIGATING THEM TO PRESS AHEAD TO COMPLETE DEAL WITH GOI. JABLONSKY SAID IT HIS CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT THERE CAN BE NO PROGRESS ON OIL BARTER UNTIL AFTER MID-DECEMBER OPEC MEETING. TOUFANIAN HAS TOLD HIM THAT HE (TOUFANIAN) EXPECTS TO BE ABLE TO DEVELOP "COMMON FORMULA" ON OIL BARTER WITHIN A COUPLE OF WEEKS.

7. JABLONSKY SAID THAT HE AND HIS TECHNICAL PEOPLE HAD BRIEFED CARMISH/MAAG ON F-18L SEPT 28.

8. COMMENT: WITH ALL THIS EXPLANATION IT STILL CLEAR THAT JONES HAS CONTINUED TO PRESS HIS CASE PRIOR TO RECEIVING CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03     TEHRAN 09825 301136Z

MC AUTHORIZATION, LET ALONE APPROVAL OF F-18L MASTER PLAN. THESE POINTS BEING CONVEYED TO GOI, AND DEFREP HAS CLARIFIED SECDEF POSITION WITH GOI. END COMMENT.   HELMS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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